(c) At the national level, the Ministry of Rural Development is designated as the Nodal Department for implementation of National Mission on Bio-diesel and in Rajasthan, the Rajasthan State Bio-fuel Development Authority, Jaipur is the agency for implementation of this programme.

Bio-mass power generation

2972. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased:

(a) whether Government are of the view that in the light of high energy requirements of the economy, there is a need to develop a sustainable and renewable bio-mass power generation;

(b) if so, how much bio-power do the country produces and the potential thereof;

(c) the challenges, technological and otherwise, which need to be surmounted;

(d) whether any fiscal incentives and policy change, are initiated to promote the bio-mass power generation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A cumulative biomass power generation capacity of 1226 MW has been installed in the country till to end of 10th Five Year Plan. A potential of 21000 MW has been estimated for generation of power from surplus biomass (excluding bio-mass from plantation) and sugarcane bagasse.

(c) Major constraints are inadequate micro-level data on suplus biomass; problems associated with sustainable availability, collection, transportation and storage of biomass; non-versatility of boilers to take mixed biomass feed stock; non-fixation of attractive and preferential tariff for buy-back, wheeling and banking of electricity from biomass projects in some potential States.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing various fiscal incentives for setting up of biomass power projects in the country including in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal such as concessional customs duty on import of machineries and components, excise duty exemption, accelerated depreciation on major components, relief from taxes and term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), besides project capacity based capital subsidy. This apart, policies have been introduced in potential States for wheeling, banking and buy-back of electricity generated from commercial biomass power and bagasse cogeneration projects.

(f) Does not arise.

Gas as a fuel

2973. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas now accounts for about 24 per cent of the total primary energy consumption, globally, but in India the share of gas is 8 per cent and it may take years to get anywhere close to global levels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no electricity capacity addition is planned in the Twelfth Five Year Plan based on gas as a fuel, despite its attractiveness as a fuel source due to its availability, price and environment impact; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to promote the use of gas as a fuel?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) According to the report of the Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas for the 11th Plan, the utilization of gas, as fuel in India, accounts for around 9% of the primary needs in comparison to that of 24% of total global primary energy supply.

(b) and (c) The Working Group of Power for 11th Plan has recommended a tentative capacity addition of 82,200 MW in 12th Plan, comprising of